not progressed any further. The Executive Engineer, Kottayam, should be specially asked to prepare a scheme for the extension of the market.

It was difficult to understand why the plague observation stations at Arukutti and Veluthulli were retained by the Government of Travancore even after the Cochin Government had declared that there was no case of plague in that State. The detention and examination of articles at these places was causing great loss to the merchants of Travancore. One could not but regret that the matter had not come to the notice either of the Administrative Board, Medical Services or of Government. The observation stations mentioned should be abolished at once and merchants and passengers saved the great trouble and loss they were suffering.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Maliyakal Mani Abraham, in regard to the market you have mentioned, Government have made reference to the President of the municipality on the subject. But the President is apparently still considering the matter for, in spite of the long time that has elapsed, no reply has been received from him. I therefore suggest that you would move the municipality on the subject.

You also referred to the question of plague preventive arrangements at Arukutty. It does not matter the slightest to the Government what inconvenience individual merchants suffer as a result of the arrangements made to keep disease and pestilences out of the country. The interests of the country are far more important than the convenience of individuals. In regard to the withdrawal of the arrangements made, I would suggest that before you comment upon the matter here, you should ascertain what is actually taking place on the spot.

63. Necessity of giving grants to the Kottayam Municipality for opening new roads and making other improvements in the town.

MR. T. C. CHACKO (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) said that for a long time past Government were not paying any attention to the development of the Kottayam town. The old roads opened at a time when the vehicular traffic in the town was confined to a few country carts still remained in their original condition even though the town had of late witnessed a remarkable rise in motor traffic. Not only that the old roads were not widened, no new roads were being opened at all. The municipal council was not rich enough to meet the enormous cost of opening new roads. Government should open new roads in the town, and their maintenance alone should be left to the municipality. Government should at least acquire the lands necessary for opening the roads and hand them over to the municipality.

In order to construct a building for the municipal office, Government should transfer to the municipality the necessary lands from the south eastern portion of the hospital compound.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The question of providing a perennial source of water supply for the town should be investigated soon. The wells in the town all went dry in the hot season and the river-water became saltish.

A fire-engine should be provided for the municipality in order to prevent accidents like the recent out-break of fire in the market.

Government should grant the necessary help to the municipality in the matter of supply of electric lights. The town was infested with snakes, and occurrences of thefts were not also rare. The present street-lighting in the town was very poor.

Compulsory primary education and technical education should be introduced at least tentatively in the schools in municipal areas in the State. From there they could be extended to other parts of the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko, I listened with a good deal of interest and sympathy to the matters you referred to in connection with the life and activities of the Kottayam municipality. I shall await representations of the municipality in such directions as they may require the help or the guidance of the Government.

64. Needs of Nanjinad.

MR. RAMASWAMI NADAR SIVASUBRAHMANYA NADAR (*Member, Agastiswaram taluk*) said that most of the cultivators of paddy and cocoanut in Nanjinad were small land-holders. They had no money to spend on new methods of agriculture. There were also vast areas of dry land in the Tovala and Agastiswaram taluks which, with a sufficient amount of capital, could be used for cultivating the very best varieties of cotton. Agricultural loans should be issued to the ryots for cultivating these lands and for improving the cultivation of paddy and cocoanut.

Artificial manures should be sold to ryots at reduced price or on credit.

More grazing grounds should be provided for sheep and cattle. The prosperity of agriculture depended in a large measure upon the improvement of the livestock and this in turn depended upon the existence of sufficient grazing grounds. The area of grazing grounds had dwindled of late by the sale of tank-beds and poramboke lands. The only places where good pasture could now be found were the hills. Restrictions on the grazing of goats on the hills should be removed.

The ryots of Agastiswaram should be permitted to collect timber from the Sirkar forests for making agricultural implements.

A reservoir should be constructed at Olakariur and the Althurayar should be extended in order to prevent scarcity of water consequent on the present condition of the Tovala channel.

The lower reaches of the N. P. Channel should be improved. The capacity of the main channel should be increased by widening it so as to make it possible to feed the branches with a sufficient supply of water.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly